Dated: November 24, 2026.

Nature McGinn,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–24136 Filed 11–25–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XG209]

Endangered Species; File No. 29910

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, 333 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371 (Responsible Party: Jacqueline Benway Roberts), has applied in due form for a permit to take Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) and shortnose sturgeon (*A. brevirostrum*) for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 28, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting ''Records Open for Public Comment'' on the Authorizations and Permits for Protected Species home page, *https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/ifq/r/ifqws/apps/home,* and then selecting File No. 29910 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.*

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.* Please include File No. 29910 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.* The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erin Markin, Ph.D., or Jennifer Skidmore, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The applicant proposes to conduct research on adult, sub-adult, and juvenile Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon captured via gill nets and trawls in Connecticut rivers and the Long Island Sound to understand recruitment, habitat utilization, seasonal movements, and population size and structure. Up to 1,010 Atlantic sturgeon and 1,325 shortnose sturgeon would be marked (passive integrated transponder), measured, biologically sampled (fin clip), photographed/videoed, and weighed, annually, prior to release. A subset of sturgeon would be anesthetized, tagged (internal transmitter), biologically sampled (fin ray), and lavaged, prior to release. Early life stages of both species will be collected using egg mats. The applicant requests up to one unintentional mortality of an adult/subadult and a juvenile Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon annually. See application for detailed requested take numbers. The permit would be valid for up to 10 years from the date of issuance.

Dated: November 24, 2026.

Nature McGinn,

Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–24138 Filed 11–25–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XG218]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area; 2026 Cost Recovery Fee Notice for the Western Alaska Community Development Quota and Trawl Limited Access Privilege Programs

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notification of standard prices and fee percentage.

SUMMARY: NMFS publishes the 2026 standard prices and fee percentages for cost recovery for the Amendment 80 Program, the American Fisheries Act (AFA) Program, the Aleutian Islands Pollock (AIP) Program, and the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) management area. The fee percentages for 2026 are 0.94 percent for the Amendment 80 Program, 0.46 percent for the AFA inshore cooperatives, 0 percent for the AIP program, and 0.93 percent for the CDQ Program. This notice is intended to provide the 2026 standard prices and fee percentages to calculate the required payment for cost recovery fees due by December 31, 2026.

DATES: The standard prices and fee percentages are valid on November 27, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tristan Mandeville, Fee Coordinator, 907–586–7231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 304(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorizes and requires that NMFS collect cost recovery fees for limited access privilege programs and the CDQ Program. Cost recovery fees include NMFS' actual costs directly related to its management, data collection, and enforcement of the programs. Section 304(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act mandates that cost recovery fees not exceed 3 percent of the annual ex-vessel value of fish harvested under any program subject to a cost recovery fee and that the fee be collected either at the time of landing, filing of a landing report, or sale of such fish during a fishing season or in the last quarter of the calendar year in which the fish is harvested.

NMFS manages the Amendment 80 Program, AFA Program, and AIP Program as limited access privilege programs. On January 5, 2016, NMFS published a final rule to implement cost recovery for these three limited access privilege programs and the CDQ program (81 FR 150, January 5, 2016). The designated representative (for the purposes of cost recovery) for each program is responsible for submitting the fee payment to NMFS on or before December 31 of the year in which the landings were made. The total dollar amount of the fee due is determined by multiplying the NMFS published fee percentage by the ex-vessel value of all landings under the program made during the fishing year. NMFS publishes this notice of the fee percentages for the Amendment 80, AFA, AIP, and CDQ programs in the **Federal Register** by December 1 each year.

Standard Prices

The fee liability is based on the ex-vessel value of fish harvested in each program. For purposes of calculating cost recovery fees, NMFS uses a

standard ex-vessel price (standard price) for each species. A standard price is determined using information on landings purchased (volume) and ex-vessel value paid (value). For most groundfish species, NMFS annually summarizes volume and value information for landings of all fishery species subject to cost recovery to estimate a standard price for each species. The standard prices are described in U.S. dollars per pound for landings made during the year. The standard prices for all species in the Amendment 80, AFA, AIP, and CDQ programs are provided in table 1. Each landing made under each program is multiplied by the appropriate standard price to arrive at an ex-vessel value for each landing. These values are summed together to arrive at the ex-vessel value of each program (fishery value).

TABLE 1—STANDARD EX-VESSEL PRICES BY SPECIES FOR THE 2026 FISHING YEAR

Species	Gear type	Reporting period	Standard ex-vessel price per pound ($)
Arrowtooth flounder	All	January to December	0.32
Atka mackerel	All	January to December	0.26
Flathead sole	All	January to December	0.26
Greenland turbot	All	January to December	0.78
CDQ halibut	Fixed gear	January to December	8.29
Pacific cod	Fixed gear	January to December	0.53
	Trawl gear	January to December	0.45
Pacific ocean perch	All	January to December	0.31
Pollock	All	January to December	0.13
Rock sole	All	January to March	0.25
	All	April to December	0.25
Sablefish	Fixed gear	January to December	1.94
	Trawl gear	January to December	0.96
Yellowfin sole	All	January to December	0.24

Fee Percentage

Annually, NMFS calculates the applicable fee percentage for each of the four programs according to the factors and methods described at 50 CFR 679 under §§ 679.33(c)(2) for CDQ, 679.66(c)(2) for AFA, 679.67(c)(2) for AIP, and 679.95(c)(2) for Amendment 80. NMFS determines the fee percentage that applies to landings made during the year by dividing the total costs directly related to the management, data collection, and enforcement of each program (direct program costs) during the year by the fishery value. NMFS captures direct program costs through an established accounting system that allows staff to track labor, travel, contracts, and procurement costs. For 2026, the direct program costs for each program were tracked from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 (the end of the fiscal year). The Amendment 80 program moved from active software development to maintenance, resulting in an 18 percent decrease in direct program costs. When combined with a 35 percent increase in overall fishery value, the fee percentage was reduced from 1.55 percent in 2025 to 0.94 percent in 2026. AFA was a focus for software development in 2026, resulting in a 10 percent increase in direct program costs. AFA fishery value declined by 17 percent when compared to 2025, resulting in an increased fee percentage from 0.35 percent in 2025 to 0.46 percent in 2026. CDQ fishery value increased by 28 percent and direct program costs were a 0.2 percent increase when compared to 2025. The CDQ fee percentage decreased from 1.19 percent in 2025 to 0.93 percent in 2026. The 2026 percentage for the AIP Program is zero because there was no AIP fishery in 2026, thus no associated harvest.

NMFS will provide an annual report that summarizes direct program costs for each of the programs in early 2027. NMFS calculates the values for each fishery as described earlier under the Standard Prices section of this notice.

Amendment 80 Program Standard Prices and Fee Percentage

The Amendment 80 Program allocates total allowable catches (TACs) of groundfish species, other than Bering Sea pollock, to identified trawl catcher/processors fishing in the BSAI. The Amendment 80 Program allocates a portion of the BSAI TACs of six species: Atka mackerel, Pacific cod, flathead sole, rock sole, yellowfin sole, and Aleutian Islands Pacific ocean perch. In recent years, participants in the Amendment 80 sector have established a cooperative to harvest these allocations. Each Amendment 80 cooperative is responsible for payment of the cost recovery fee for fish landed under the Amendment 80 Program. Cost recovery requirements for the Amendment 80 Program are at § 679.95.

For Amendment 80 species, other than rock sole, NMFS annually summarizes volume and value information for landings of all fishery species subject to cost recovery in order to estimate a standard price for each fishery species. Regulations specify that for rock sole, NMFS shall calculate a separate standard price for two periods, January 1 through March 31 and April 1 through October 31, which has historically accounted for a substantial difference in estimated rock sole prices during the first quarter of the year relative to the remainder of the year. The volume and value information are obtained from the First Wholesale Volume and Value Report submitted by catcher/processors that harvested Amendment 80 or CDQ species, and the Pacific Cod Ex-Vessel Volume and Value Report submitted by shoreside processors and motherships that processed landings of BSAI or CDQ Pacific cod.

Using the fee percentage formula described generally above, the estimated percentage of direct program costs to fishery value for the 2026 calendar year is 0.94 percent for the Amendment 80 Program. For 2026, NMFS applies the fee percentage to each Amendment 80 species landing that was debited from an Amendment 80 cooperative quota allocation between January 1 and December 31 to calculate the Amendment 80 fee liability for each Amendment 80 cooperative. The 2026

fee payments must be submitted to NMFS on or before December 31, 2026. Payment must be made in accordance with the payment methods set forth in § 679.95(a)(3)(iv).

AFA Standard Price and Fee Percentages

The AFA Program allocates the Bering Sea directed pollock fishery TAC to three sectors: catcher/processor, mothership, and inshore. Each sector has established cooperatives to harvest the sector's exclusive allocation. In 2026, each cooperative for the inshore sector is responsible for paying the fee for Bering Sea pollock landed under the AFA Program. Cost recovery requirements for the AFA sectors are found at § 679.66.

NMFS calculates the standard price for pollock using the most recent annual value information reported to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the Commercial Operator's Annual Report and compiled in the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Gross Earnings data. Due to the time required to compile the data, there is a 1-year delay between the gross earnings data year and the fishing year to which it is applied. For example, NMFS used 2025 gross earnings data to calculate the standard price for 2026 pollock landings.

Under the fee percentage formula described above, the estimated percentage of direct program costs to fishery value for the 2026 calendar year is 0.46 percent for the AFA inshore sector. To calculate the 2026 fee liabilities, NMFS applies the respective fee percentages to the landings of Bering Sea pollock debited from each cooperative's fishery allocation that occurred between January 1 and December 31. The 2026 fee payments must be submitted to NMFS on or before December 31, 2026. Payment must be made in accordance with the payment methods set forth in § 679.66(a)(4)(iv).

AIP Program Standard Price and Fee Percentage

The AIP Program allocates the Aleutian Islands directed pollock fishery TAC to the Aleut Corporation, consistent with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108–199) and implementing regulations. Annually, prior to the start of the pollock season, the Aleut Corporation provides NMFS with the identity of its designated representative for harvesting the Aleutian Islands directed pollock fishery TAC. The same individual is responsible for the submission of all cost recovery fees for pollock landed under the AIP Program. Cost recovery requirements for the AIP Program are at § 679.67.

NMFS calculates the standard price for pollock using the most recent annual value information reported to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the Commercial Operator's Annual Report and compiled in the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Gross Earnings data for Aleutian Islands pollock. As explained above, due to the time required to compile the data, there is a 1-year delay between the gross earnings data year and the fishing year to which it is applied.

For the 2026 fishing year, the Aleut Corporation did not select any participants to harvest or process the Aleutian Islands directed pollock fishery TAC, and most of that TAC was reallocated to the Bering Sea directed pollock fishery TAC. Since there was no fishery for the AIP Program in 2026, the fee percentage is zero.

CDQ Standard Price and Fee Percentage

The CDQ Program was implemented in 1992 to provide access to BSAI fishery resources to villages located in Western Alaska. Section 305(i) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act identifies 65 villages eligible to participate in the CDQ Program and the 6 CDQ groups to represent these villages. CDQ groups receive exclusive harvesting privileges of the TACs for a broad range of crab species, groundfish species, and halibut. NMFS implemented a CDQ cost recovery program for the BSAI crab fisheries in 2005 (70 FR 10174, March 2, 2005) and published the cost recovery fee percentage for the 2025/2026 crab fishing year on July 28, 2026 (91 FR 47223). This notice provides the cost recovery fee percentage for the CDQ Program with respect to groundfish and halibut. Each CDQ group is subject to cost recovery fee requirements and the designated representative of each CDQ group is responsible for submitting payment for their CDQ group. Cost recovery requirements for the CDQ Program are at § 679.33.

For most CDQ groundfish species, NMFS annually summarizes volume and value information for landings of all fishery species subject to cost recovery in order to estimate a standard price for each fishery species. The volume and value information are obtained from the First Wholesale Volume and Value Report and the Pacific Cod Ex-Vessel Volume and Value Report. For CDQ halibut and fixed-gear sablefish, NMFS calculates the standard prices using information from the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Ex-Vessel Volume and Value Report, which collects information on both IFQ and CDQ volume and value.

Using the fee percentage formula described above, the estimated percentage of direct program costs to fishery value for the 2026 calendar year is 0.93 percent for the CDQ Program. For 2026, NMFS applies the calculated CDQ fee percentage to all CDQ groundfish and halibut landings made between January 1 and December 31 to calculate the CDQ fee liability for each CDQ group. The 2026 fee payments must be submitted to NMFS on or before December 31, 2026. Payment must be made in accordance with the payment methods set forth in § 679.33(a)(3)(iv).

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*)

Dated: November 24, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–24156 Filed 11–25–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XG213]

Fisheries of the South Atlantic; Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of webinar.

SUMMARY: The Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR) 90 assessment process of South Atlantic Red Snapper will consist of a Data Workshop, a series of Assessment Webinars, and a Review Workshop. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The SEDAR 90 Assessment Webinar 14 will be held from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. EDT on December 17, 2026.

ADDRESSES:

SEDAR Address: 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201, North Charleston, SC 29405.

Meeting Address: The SEDAR 90 Assessment Webinar 14 will be held via webinar. The webinar is open to members of the public. The established times may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the assessment process. Such adjustments may result in the meeting being extended from or completed prior to the time established